

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 2681 without my signature.

Abandoned vehicles are a public nuisance and a safety hazard. I support the goal of this bill's proponents to get these vehicles off our streets. In fact, existing law already allows local governments to assess a fee on vehicle registrations to fund abandoned vehicle abatement programs.

Unfortunately, I cannot support the doubling of the vehicle registration fee proposed by this bill. In recent years, a number of measures have come across my desk that would allow local governments to add or increase fees on vehicle registrations. Many of these proposals have been well-intentioned, with proposed fees related to the impact motorists have on roads and the environment. However, I have consistently held that fees such as these should be approved by the voters.

Throughout the year, my administration worked with members of the legislature on a proposal that would have given all counties the authority to adopt, with voter approval, modest license fee add-ons to fund environmental and traffic mitigation programs. Unfortunately, those efforts were ultimately rejected. I encourage the Legislature to reconsider this decision when they return next year.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger